

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 4540

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR EB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES:
CHAIRMANSHIP AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. WHILE NO FORMAL NOTICE OF RESIGNATION HAS YET BEEN CIRCULATED, MISSION HAS BEEN INFORMED BY UK DELEGATION THAT PETER PRESTON DEFINITELY PLANS TO RESIGN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HLGC. PRESTON HAS RECENTLY BEEN PROMOTED FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE TO PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT. UK DEL HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT UK IS PREPARED TO OFFER (BUT, AT THIS STAGE, IS NOT PUSHING) PRESTON'S SUCCESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, JOHN STEELE, AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP. STEELE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE WELL KNOWN AT OECD AND IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF EMBASSY LONDON COULD PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH ITS ASSESSMENT OF HIM AS POSSIBLE CHAIRMAN.

2. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THE JOB SO FAR.

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SWEDES MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO OFFER BRATTSTROM FOR THE

POSITION. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IS PAT DONOVAN, AUSTRALIA'S COMMERCIAL MINISTER IN BRUSSELS (EC) AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CIEC RAW MATERIALS COMMISSION.

3. ON TIMING OF NEXT MEETING, BOTH UK AND SECRETARIAT ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF LATE JANUARY. IN ADDITION TO UNCTAD, CIEC, AND INVESTMENT, THERE IS SOME FEELING THIS MIGHT BE GOOD TIME TO AGAIN TAKE UP ISSUE OF COMPENSATORY FINANCING.
KATZ

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